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For Immediate Release:
November 16, 2009

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**Lt. Governor Skillman Awards the Town of Griffith
Downtown Revitalization Committee with Indiana Main Street
Downtown Special Event of the Year Award**

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman awarded the Town of Griffith Downtown Revitalization Committee with the 2009 Indiana Main Street Downtown Special Event of the Year award for their Rock 'N' Rail street festival event during a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse on Friday. The Indiana Main Street program provides technical assistance regarding economic revitalization and community development in local downtown districts to participating Indiana cities and towns.

"Downtown districts are the heart of Hoosier cities and towns, and they are a key component of any community's economic success," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "Each of this year's Indiana Main Street award winners has made a lasting impact by demonstrating their commitment to their local community."

This event was established not only as a fun community festival, but also to create awareness of Griffith's downtown revitalization plans and to recognize the town's participation in the Indiana Main Street Program. The event consisted of 40 local retail and food vendors, a children's area, and a display booth featuring the architectural renderings of the proposed new facades created for the downtown revitalization project. 17 bands performed during the festival. Many downtown business owners stated they experienced their highest sales volume of the year that day with attendance ranging from 5000 to 7000 people.

"We are very proud of this year's Indiana Main Street Award winners," said David Terrell, Director of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. "The high quality of businesses, projects, and volunteers is a true testament to the revitalization efforts happening in Indiana Main Street communities."

The Indiana Main Street program is administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

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Lt. Governor Skillman oversees the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. OCRA was created by legislation in 2005, making rural Indiana a major focus for the first time. For additional information on OCRA and its programs visit www.ocra.in.gov.

For updates from the Lt. Governor and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.lg.in.gov.

Photo caption: Pictured: Bud Gaby, Richard Cowan, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, Valarie Wotkun, Liz Goral, Ace Wartsbaugh, Mike Kubacki.

